



SOUTHERN TRAILS

March 2018



ST4WD Club Basic Training
Talooge Park
February 2018

ST4WD Club Annual General Meeting

Will be held on

Tuesday 13th March

at 7.30pm

*Canberra Deakin Football
Club*

3 Grose St, Deakin ACT

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President's Post – Jim Anderson

Being my last President's Post, I must say that it has been a great two years made possible by a fantastic group of enthusiastic and energetic committee members during that time. Volunteers of course need to balance competing family, work and life commitments to provide time for club activities which at times can be a challenge. Thank you to all the committee and general members who were able to contribute to the variety of activities required to run and progress the club including maintaining the property, training club members, leading trips and volunteering at the 4WD Spectacular.

The committee has done a lot of work on the club plan and policy and procedures and these documents are close to being finalised. The club website is identified for review this year with funding included in the 2018 budget. The partial fuel reimbursement policy for areas of club volunteering is currently being reviewed and the potential impact on the budget will need to be considered. A sub-committee to boost and organise social activities will also be formed this year.

The development and delivery of a trip leader training course in 2017 resulted in more trip leaders with quite a number of additional club trips to varied and interesting locations. Driver training has been delivered to 57 members which is a significant effort, and 35 members attended supplementary training courses.

I feel confident that the club is moving in the right direction and will be a

viable entity for many years to come. We have organised the club's finances and have put in place a contingency fund to meet emergency expenditure (based on the value of three years essential operating costs) as well as a savings plan for upgrading and replacing equipment – details are in the February committee meeting minutes available on the website.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and associated Articles of Operation for 4WD Spectacular events for 2020 to 2024 was signed off by the host clubs in January. The documents were reviewed to update arrangements and requirements including:

MoU - notification period to terminate to be not less than 18 months prior to a scheduled event; clarification of arrangements upon termination including disposal and distribution of assets.

Articles of Operation - updated arrangements for contracting out of activities; requirement for employees or sub-contractors to have appropriate insurances; Exhibition Manager and Event Ground Manager updated to reflect current practice; clarified the rotation of tent arrangements and duties between the host clubs.

Thank you all for your support during the past two years. I hope to see you at the March AGM or on a track somewhere.

Jim Anderson

Trips and Events – Michael Patrick

March to May 2018

For more trips please visit the [ST4WD club web page](#)

Start Date	End Date	Activity	Type	Leader
7 March	7 March	Information Night River Crossing & Sand Driving Course	Training	Peter Butterfield
10 March	18 March	Balloon Spectacular	Event	Catherine Panich
17 March	23 March	Walhalla Bound	Grade 3	Michael Patrick
23 March	4 April	Around Mini Australia in 24 Days - Part 1 - 10 Days	Grade 3	Scott Broadhead
24 March	24 March	Tallaganda Forest Tour	Grade 2	Garry McLaughlin
24 March	25 March	Talooge Park Muster	Muster	Scott Cumming
1 April	15 April	Around Mini Australia in 24 Days - Part 2 - 15 Days	Grade 3	Scott Broadhead
7 April	7 April	River Crossing & Sand Driving Course	Training	Peter Butterfield
11 April	13 April	Mid-Week at McKillops (Snowy River)	Grade 3	Dim Veteri
14 April	15 April	Camper Trailer Workshop	Grade 3	Glenn Watts
18 April	18 April	Basic Training 4WD Vehicle Evaluation	Training	Peter Butterfield
21 April	22 April	Talooge Park Muster	Muster	Scott Cumming
27 April	29 April	Friday Night Dash to Victoria High Country to visit some of the highlights of the VHC close to home	Grade 3	Stuart Watts
28 April	18 May	Big Red Bound	Grade 3	Alex Szabo
12 May	29 May	The Red Centre unfinished business	Grade 3	Lindsey Jones

Membership Moments – Dim Veteri

Hi Everyone, below is information on current membership and other membership matters. Thanks Dim

New members:

There have been fourteen new memberships for the month of February.

The new memberships are:

- **Kevin McFadzen** – Driving a Mitsubishi Pajero
- **Anthony Hesling & Simon Reading** - Driving a Holden Colorado
- **Anton Baggerman & Barbara Ertz** – Driving a Toyota Prado
- **Christine & Derek Barnes** – Driving Nissan Patrol
- **Colin & Karen McLachlan** – Driving a Toyota FJ Cruiser
- **George Douglas** – Driving a Mitsubishi Triton
- **Jade & Liz Williams** – Driving a Toyota Landcruiser
- **Jenny & Mick Gawalski** – Driving a Toyota Hilux
- **Kevin & June Curtis** – Driving a Mazda BT-50
- **Kevin & Tracey Wode** – Driving a Ford Ranger
- **Mark Wakelam & Lisa Tatem** – Driving a Toyota Landcruiser 105
- **Mitch Cassimatis** – Driving a Mitsubishi Triton
- **Neil & Jane Coffee** – Driving a Holden Trailblazer
- **Russel & Kirsty Smith** - Driving a Mitsubishi Pajero NX

Welcome to the Club

Please say hello to our new members and visitors if you are at the Club meeting - if you see a new face, make them welcome and say G'day.



Membership Numbers:

As at 28 February 2018 we have the following membership:

Ordinary Members	-	229
Life Members	-	9
Sub-Total	-	238
Family Members	-	168
Total	-	406

2018 Membership Renewal

Please feel free to contact me regarding any membership matters you may have either by email, phone or grab me at the meeting.

Many thanks to all those members who have already paid their membership fees for 2018.

Unfortunately we still have 56 memberships unpaid. If you are yet to pay your fee for 2018 please remember that for members who joined in 2016 or before the membership renewal fee is \$100 (for an individual or family).

For members who joined in 2017 you may be eligible for a pro-rata membership fee for 2018. If you are not sure please email me and I can confirm your fees for 2018.

Also please check the Club account details (see below) and please add your **Name** and the words “**Membership Fees**” as the comment or reference, when doing an electronic payment

My contact details are:

membership@st4wdc.com.au

Mobile Phone: 0401990855

CLUB BANK DETAILS

PLEASE NOTE: The Club has recently changed its Bank provider to “Bank Australia” and has new account details. The new details are:

Bank: Bank Australia

Account Name: ST4WDC

BSB Number: 313 140

Account Number: 1213 0617

Members should use these account details in all transactions with the club, including for membership fees and clothing purchases when using direct deposit.

Members who use Internet Banking and Mobile Banking please update your “PAYEE Listing” for ST4WDC with the new details.

Talooge Park – Scott Cumming

Talooge Gate Security Codes: A reminder that before travelling to Talooge you should always contact one of the relevant officers for the updated gate codes.

Scott Cumming property@st4wdc.com.au 0490 000913

Jim Anderson president@st4wdc.com.au 0408 283496

Peter Butterfield education@st4wdc.com.au 0417 480856

Talooge Security: If you are visiting Talooge and notice any suspicious behaviour or a vehicle you don't recognise, it's your property and you have the right to politely ask who they are and what they are doing. Report any suspicious behaviour to either myself or Jim Anderson. Surveillance cameras installed on the property to assist in identifying any unauthorised traffic. The combination lock on the gate from the main paddock to the Horse paddock has been replaced but it is slightly different to the old one and you need to push the button on the bottom once putting in the code for it to open.

Talooge Park "it's your property" and we do have some fun at the musters so if you haven't been out there for a while or are a new member and are happy to help support our club or even if you are amongst a number of regular helpers I encourage you all to join us at Talooge Park for a little bit of work and a lot of fun. The weather is perfect at this time of the year and the camaraderie is always good and a free sausage sizzle on Saturday courtesy of the club is always welcome.

Talooge Park Musters – 24/25 March, 21/22 April.

See you at Talooge Park. Scott Cumming - Property Coordinator
property@st4wdc.com.au

To Always Look Over Our Great Environment

**IT'S NOT
TOO LATE!**



The ST4WD Club Committee is still looking for members who would like to form a **Social Events Sub Committee** for 2018. This is an opportunity for you to do something for your club and get to know more of our fellow club members.

Please contact: president@st4wdc.com.au





Do you have a 12 volt fridge that you would be prepared to donate to the Talooge Club House?

If so please contact:

Jim president@st4wdc.com.au

Or

Scott: property@st4wdc.com.au



Anne Beadell Highway ,SA

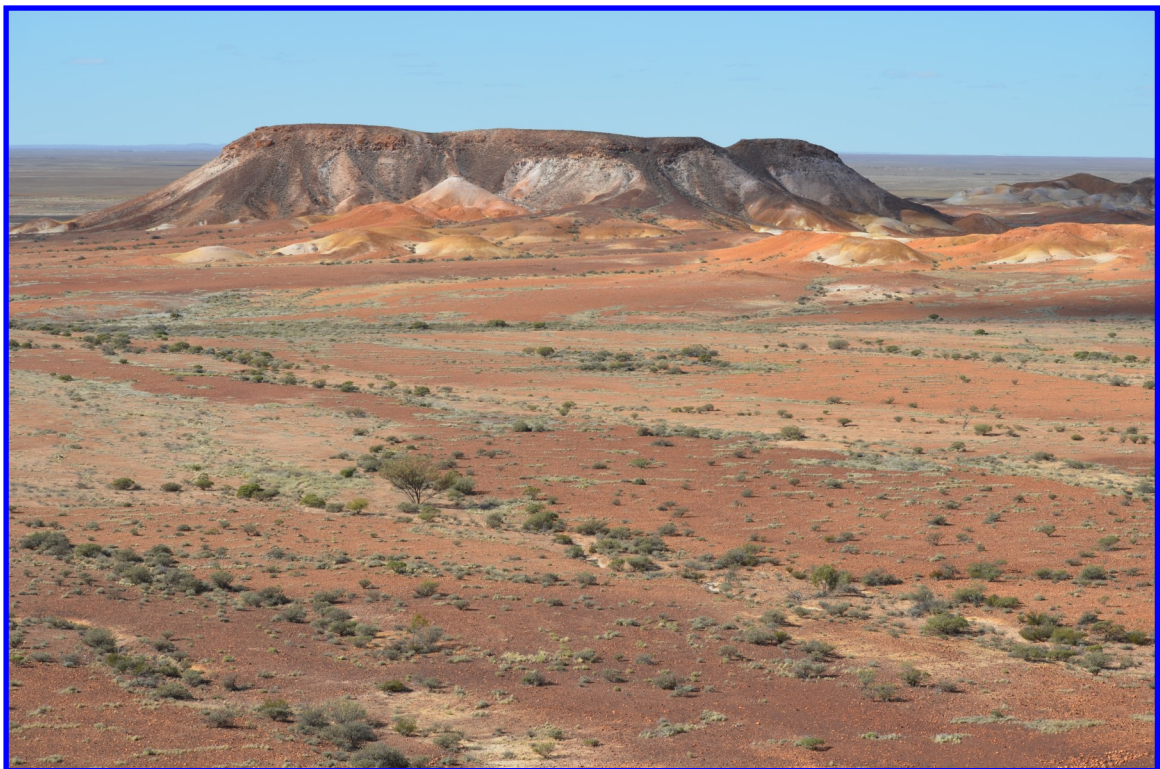
Membership Gift Certificates

Southern Tablelands 4WD Club now has available Membership Gift Certificates.

	GIFT CERTIFICATE
	<i>This Certificate entitles:</i> _____
	<i>To:</i> _____
	<i>From:</i> _____
Southern Tablelands 4 Wheel Drive Club Inc	<i>Authorised by:</i> _____
	<i>Date:</i> _____

These certificates are a great way to give the gift of membership to friends and family and are available for both current member's Annual Membership Fee (Cost/Value \$100) or for new members for their Joining fee and Annual Membership Fee (Cost/Value \$330).

If you would like to give a gift of ST4WDC Membership please contact the Membership Secretary at membership@st4wdc.com.au.



Painted Desert, SA

2018 4WD EASTER JAMBOREE



Black Diamond Recreational 4WD Club in conjunction with NSW & ACT Four Wheel Drive Association would like to invite all affiliated club members to attend our Jamboree being held at Easter 2018.

All affiliated clubs are welcome. Come along and join in the Jamboree fun! Enjoy the adventurous 4WD trips and outdoor activities to be experienced by you and your family.

Located on 160 acres of private land adjoining Buckenbowra State Forest and Monga National Park. 45 minutes west of Batemans Bay.

NIGHT DRAGS

TEAM BOG HOLE

MONSTER HILL CLIMB

GUIDED DRIVES

FUN-KHANA

FUN FOR KIDS

EASTER EGG HUNT

BMX TRACK

R/C TRACK

**BOOK EARLY
ONLY 300
CAMP SITES**

MORE...
information

jamboree2018@gmail.com

Lee: 0409 668 175

**Buckenbowra - Batemans Bay
29th March – 2nd April 2018**



Here are examples of the ST4WD Club new polo shirts designs. Please see Debbie at the meeting if you would like to order one.

Club Clothing – Debbie Davidson



<i>Polo Shirts</i>	\$35.00
<i>Chamberly Shirts</i>	\$45.00
<i>Jackets</i>	\$110.00
<i>Hoodies</i>	\$45.00
<i>Rugby Tops</i>	\$50.00
<i>Caps</i>	\$15.00
<i>Bucket Hats</i>	\$15.00
<i>Beanies</i>	\$20.00
<i>Name Badges</i>	\$10.00

Mobile 0414680708

Email r.d.davidson56@gmail.com

Meet a ST4WD Club Committee member

Name:	Brad Wells
Position held on the committee:	Vice President (previously General committee member – Guest Speakers)
Occupation:	Currently I'm an IT Officer – Civil Aviation Safety Authority joining them in 1996.
Why I joined the ST4WD Club:	My family gave me membership to the club as a birthday present after I purchased a Triton 4x4. I've been interested in owning a 4x4 forever and have always said that if I ever buy one, I would be taking it off road, not using it just as a town vehicle. The purpose of the membership was to learn about 4WDiving and meet likeminded people.
The year I joined ST4WD Club was:	2010
Why I took on a committee position:	Like the rest of life, the benefits derived are directly related to the effort input. By helping to progress the objectives of the club and its members the more enjoyment and comradery is generated for me and the people around me. Who doesn't like to be happy around friends?
What I drive around town:	2014 Toyota Prado VX, 2004 Triton Tray-back Ute and Chez's Ford Focus (when I have to)
What I drive when 4WDing:	2014 Toyota Prado VX
Favourite place I've visited:	The Bungle Bungles - Purnululu National Park WA
Favourite saying or quote:	Every day on the green side of the grass is a good day.
My dream vehicle:	2014 Toyota Prado VX – I have to say this or Chez will be asking lots of questions
On my Bucket List:	The Kimberley and the vast North West. Chez & I drove from Kununurra to Broome seeing some of the amazing sites at each location and in between. This gave us just a taste of how fantastic that part of Australia is and the desire to return for a much longer look around.
The driving accomplishment I am most proud of:	Teaching my daughters defensive driving skills.
What I am passionate about:	My family, the truth and sense of community.

For Sale



79 Series RV Landcruiser + Trayon

Price: \$75,000

- 2005 model
- 4.2L straight 6 turbo diesel engine 1HD-FTE
- 158,000 km
- Full service history
- Trayon Seeker 1830
- Available as complete unit only

Many extras included - contact for full list

Contact: Wendy Holland: 0412 064 034 or

Tim Holland: 0417 083 897



TRIP REPORT

BASIC TRAINING COURSE

Feb 22-25, 2018

What I envisaged getting out of the course and why I joined the club

After falling in love with the Brindabellas and Namadgi National Park, bush-walking about a year ago, I became aware of so many dirt tracks everywhere that I longingly gazed at wondering "I wish I could go down there" but I did not trust myself, the tracks, let alone my vehicle to pursue them further. Roll on the EPIC Home show where I spoke to a couple of like-minded ladies at the ST4WD tent who could not speak of the club more highly. They related their own positive experiences. So I joined.

Can we have a look at your vehicle (ummm it's a Kia Sorento)?

Dim and PB were concerned about my Kia's clearance. They kindly assessed it for me after work one evening. Yup! General consensus was suspension needed to be lifted. I did agree with them, however after a couple of grand replacing tyres (top decision) and a few other essential gear purchases, my bank manager (not to mention better half) said 'No'.



Roll on the course - Thursday night

After dinner at the Bredbo pub on the Thursday night, we were asked to lower our tyre pressures by 20 or so psi.

OMG - how do I do that? PB kindly assisted as I had bought the thingy



(deflator) to do that. Note to self: that is a course in itself.

We drove to the Talooge Home Paddock in convoy with only one incident - mea culpa:

At the last fork to the Home Paddock, I made the cardinal sin of proceeding without waiting for the vehicle behind me to appear which resulted in that vehicle asking for directions over the CB. Lesson learnt! This drive (terrain-wise) was also the most challenging that I had ever driven on.

Arriving at camp, I was impressed with the calibre of facilities from flushing toilets to well-equipped kitchen and classroom.

Friday

So after being woken by a lovely flock of gang gang, Friday started bright and early with some really interesting theory lessons covering both the vehicle and driving techniques. Topics included types of diffs, types of tyres, suspension, driving preparation etc. and some really great video footage of how NOT to use snatch straps. I really appreciated the time and effort that had gone into the preparation, provision of suitable slides and the very professional presentation of each lesson.

In the afternoon, after dropping tyres to 20psi, we went for our first drive. Although I was filled with trepidation, my instructor, Andy, was fantastic and so calm and patient,

TRIP REPORT – Basic Training



looking after both my Kia and myself. I crawled up and down every single hill. The offset mounds were my first major challenge but we successfully tackled it twice. Then came the hole in the wall which we again successfully tackled twice. Due to the lower clearance on my Kia, we went on separate tracks to everyone else (including another attempt at the hole in the wall but this time down, not up it).

By the end of the day, my confidence had substantially increased and I started to really trust my faithful Kia.

We had a daily debrief at the end of each day, at which each student explained how they thought they had fared during the day followed by their instructor having their input as well. This is a great initiative for both students and instructors.

We spent a most enjoyable night meeting and chatting with fellow students and instructors around the camp fire.

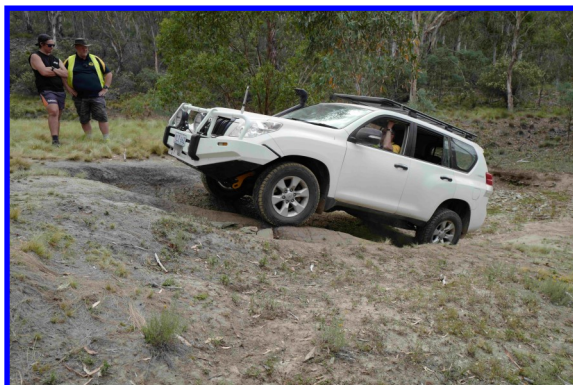
Saturday

Saturday started off with a presentation about the different types of communication available to us.

Andy had said that driving today would be partly more of the same as day 1 but with harder tracks - my heart sank - having suffered from white knuckle disease on Friday, how much more could my knuckles tolerate? Well, what a difference a day makes. I was much more confident today and the tracks honestly didn't seem harder to me! We avoided Track 2 again which would have been too much of a challenge with my Kia's low clearance. We also opted out of driving the Back Door for the same reason, but it was a great experience watching everyone else tackle it.

At today's debrief, it was really apparent that everyone's confidence had increased greatly and we all felt we trusted both ourselves and our vehicles so much more. The instructors backed all of us up on this.

Sunday



After some heavy rain on Saturday night, it continued most of the next morning which ended up making it necessary to curtail driving activities. I almost 'got it' with all the new lessons Andy had been teaching me including left foot braking, not crossing hands over steering wheel, not letting steering wheel spin through hands, keeping steady momentum up hills, letting rear of car clear

obstacles before turning, picking lines etc. We also dropped another 2 psi (down to 18). This was another important lesson on how much different even a couple of psi made. The Kia was a much happier traveller!

One other interesting observation was how many practical uses MaxTrax (brand name of a popular vehicle recovery device) have, almost to the point that they really should be a mandatory piece of kit.

We teamed up in pairs to have a practice with the snatch strap later in the morning. This has the potential to be lethal if correct procedures are not followed rigidly but under expert instruction, we completed this activity successfully.

We were then given a demonstration of winching. We witnessed first-hand how this recovery technique cannot be completed in a few minutes!

We had our final debrief around lunchtime. All of us students mentioned how much more confident we were by the end of the course and felt well prepared to hit the tracks.

We were also shown a tyre that had suffered a puncture out on track which led to the topic of how important a good all- (or mud-) terrain light truck tyre is. I was never more relieved knowing I had just purchased a full set of excellent tyres.

All in all, I'd rate this course as one of the best I have ever attended. The classroom lessons were excellent and covered all the basics that are important for people new to 4WD driving. The standard of driving instruction was second to none. I left the course confident that I could **safely** tackle off-road tracks that I would never have considered before due to my lack of knowledge. On this note - **safety** was paramount in everything that we did and the number one consideration for absolutely every aspect of the course. I am more aware of my vehicle's limitations but more importantly, I am aware of what it CAN do! I think everyone was surprised (myself included) what my little baby was capable of.

A huge thank you to all the awesome instructors and other club members who gave up their time to make it such a brilliant experience for us all.

Alex Noon

TRIP REPORT

FEBRUARY 2018

ST4WDC BASIC TRAINING TRIP REPORT

I was fortunate to be part of the 22 -25 February 2018 driver training course with 17 students and about 40 instructors and support people.

Most of us meet at the Bredbo pub around 6pm on Thursday for a meal. It was a great start to the course and a chance to meet many people for the first time. At 7pm we met the rest of the students at the old servo 500 metres down the road.

So far so good, then Peter R (one the 50+ Peters in the club!) yelled to the group "go drop your tyres 10 psi". Some of the students marched off with confidence. Some of us looked at each other and said to ourselves "OK. I'll give it go". I did my fist 3 tyres and felt pleased with myself thinking this ain't too hard after all. However, when I started tyre 4, the gauge on my ARB EZ deflator stopped working correctly. Bugger... that was a waste of \$70. Fortunately I had another tyre gauge and was able to drop the remaining tyres, albeit more slowly than using an EZ deflator. Lesson 1: carry spare gear!

After a 40 minute drive on dirt roads, we arrived at the Home Paddock, had a briefing session in the very comfy training shed, and then set up camp in the dark. We had an assortment of sleeping arrangements ranging from James's very basic swag (looked like a left over from the Man from Snowy River era!), to tents, camper trailers, and Ted's amazing removable pod with a roof top tent. Many of us then had a well deserved drink around a large camp fire.

Friday morning started at 8am in the training shed. Presentations included an overview of different type of 4WD systems; independent vs solid axle drive trains, and a situation call cross-axle when a front and rear wheel are off the ground at the same time resulting in the loss of drive. Another presentation covered the different types of tyres - road vs light truck - and the differences in physical construction; and the importance of tyre pressures.

The rest of the day was spend driving and doing exercises to make us aware of things we should know or do as 4Wdrivers. The convoys included the usual assortment of Landcruisers, Patrols, Prados and Tridents. It also included a Jeep Grand Cherokee (aren't they only good for towing your caravan in luxury?), a Fortuner (a dressed up Hilux?), and a Kia Sorento (is that really a 4WD?). We soon learnt not to judge so quickly. The Jeep did everything easily

and in supreme comfort, and the Kia did almost everything the bigger trucks did!

One of the exercises included driving the offset mounds - a track consisting of 40cm high mounds of dirt and 40cm deep holes strategically placed to put your truck in a cross-axle situation. Of course, most of us approached the track too slowly and ended up stuck. See photo below. Lesson 2: Cross-axle is bad (unless you have a wealthy partner and can afford to fit diff lockers! Even then it should be avoided.) Lesson 3: Momentum is my friend - it keeps me going when my truck loses traction.



THE OFFEST MOUNDS

We also enjoyed several hours of driving around the tracks at Talooge learning to adjust our speed and driving technique to the conditions. Lesson 4: Use left foot to control braking. Lesson 5: Use 1st gear descending steep tracks - use the engine for braking. Use 2nd gear up hills.

One climb called the "hole in the wall" was only about 12 metres long and a 5 metre rise but it had a big rut in the in the centre and a right hand bend two thirds of the way up. Choosing the correct line, momentum, and placing the wheels precisely for best traction and clearance was critical. Lesson 4: wheel placement and correct line is an essential skill.

TRIP REPORT



THE HOLE IN THE WALL

We finished the day with a debrief and drinks around the camp fire.

Saturday started at 8am in the training shed for more theory; this time on radios and tyre pressures.

We again set off in 2 convoys and covered many of the same tracks we'd covered the previous day. The track felt less daunting. Lesson 6: Confidence is a marvellous thing.

I also dropped my tyre pressures to 25psi and got better traction. I later dropped the pressure to 20psi and noticed further improvement in traction. Lesson 7: Regularly monitor tyre pressures and adjust as required - it makes life a lot easier.

The drive included several climbs. The most challenging was the "back door". It was a steep climb up a heavily rutted track to a strategically (inconveniently!) placed tree with a sharp right hand bend immediately after the tree. The track required precise wheel placement and momentum. It was interesting watching the instructors debating the best line with their students. It was more interesting seeing how the students interpreted that guidance. The styles varied from Phil in the Fortuner adopting the North Korean unguided ballistic missile approach - and giving instructor Joe a near death experience! Some of the women took a slow and steady approach focusing on the correct line; they made it look easy! Others liked the view (or was it the attention?) near the top so much that they "parked" there for a while as the onlookers got

a lesson in the use of max-tracks and command-and-control. Lesson 8:

There is only one person in charge (despite many opinions). Everyone else follows instructions.



THE BACKDOOR “PARKING LOT”

The heavens opened up Saturday night with about 2 inches of rain – but the drinks and camaraderie continued.

Sunday started as usual at 8am in the training shed. Instructor Joe gave us the bad news – the more difficult tracks that we were meant to drive were too dangerous. Then the good news – we would still go for a drive over many of the tracks we’d driven the past 2 days. It was good experience to drive in wet conditions.

Finally it was time to break camp – and it was still raining. I’m lucky to have an Ultimate camper which I love. It’s light weight and will go almost anywhere, and the king bed is fantastic! However, as I was packing it up in the rain, I realised it was also a fancy canvas tent on wheels. While I’m not prone to envy, at that moment in the torrential rain, I did look at the T-Van set up 200m away and thought “yep, it would be good to have a solid roof!”

For me the course was an amazing experience. Lots of fun and, at times, challenging. My heartfelt thanks to the dedicated and talented instructors and support personnel who gave up their time to make it possible. While I clearly have a lot to learn, I’m looking forward to seeing more of this great country of ours with my trusty Ultimate (now all dried out!) and my new club friends. And, if I’m really lucky, I might catch a few more trout on fly!

Max Cornwell

TRIP REPORT

Prawning and Fishing Trip South Coast

15th – 18th February 2018

Glen & Jane

Jim A

Sen W

Rob A Daniel &

Scott B & Jen

Three of us met at Bungendore Thursday morning and set off on another GLENTUREs". Turning off the Clyde Mountain through Misty Mountain, No Name Mountain and other tracks heading south was an

interesting drive. The drive was not challenging or hard though had variety with rocky sections, steep climbs, and a number of shallow riverbeds. There was one rocky section that Glen's vehicle lost traction because of the weight of the trailer. After couple of attempts Glen got through but had to stop and let the engine cool down because the vehicle engine started overheating, a great opportunity for a break. Before long

we were back under way, until stopped again this time due to a fallen tree. The tree was removed using manual tree removal procedures - an axe which had us all sweating.





After a quick stop at Bodalla we were headed to the Caravan Park to set up and have happy hour. When we arrived, the park looked empty except for a few caravans. As this was a prawning trip, Glen suggested to go prawning that night. Jim was not interested because he was too tired and went to bed early. I was bit excited and put up my hand.

At midnight, we set off up the beach to the lakes entrance to catch the eluded prawns. Although according to Glen's standards it was a short walk, but for me in the dark on soft sand the walk was never ending. However, I volunteered to go with Glen therefore I could not complain! Finally, we reached the inlet and Glen was in the water searching for prawns. There were lots of little ones but not the big ones. I didn't get into the water because I was



there to witness the big catch and capture it on film. Unfortunately, the big ones had sent the little ones as bait and must have been having a ball at home, none arrived.



While at the inlet, we heard a hissing sound and we thought it might be dolphin but somebody in the camp said there had been a seal hanging around. Anyway, we got back to camp around 1.30am empty handed. Prawning is a hard job I thought to myself!

The next couple of days were relaxing for me while others explored the other areas looking for fish and prawns. Only a few prawns were caught which ended up on pizzas, Saturday night. There was also a few bream and large salmon (caught I think, by Glen).

Prawning and Fishing Trip South Coast

A billabong that was opposite our tents had lots of activity going on. Young kangaroos challenging each other, little joey's playing around their mother kangaroos, ducks, long neck heron's kookaburra's and lots of water birds were attracted to the area, so relaxing. In addition, an emu family paid us a visit along with a goanna.



Rob and the kids joined us Friday night and Scott & Jen joined us on Saturday with his newly acquired drone. He shot some amazing footage of the sea beach and some of the tracks we were traveling. It is very interesting and different looking at the same scenery from above than from the ground.



That evening Glen prepared fish cakes with freshly caught salmon fish.

They were the best ever fish cakes I have ever had.

Delicious fish cakes 🍷 .

On Sunday we headed back to Canberra heading west from Bodalla and back up the range on some good dirt tracks. Once on top of the range we had a quick diversion to Tuross cascades again some great photo



opportunities were had. After a long day we pulled into Williamsdale to air up and then got back on the blacktop to head home.



A great relaxing weekend - thanks to all!!

Sen.

Watts Happening? Fishing Report

February - 2018

A quiet month was had with only one weekend out being the Prawning and Fishing weekend. The tides moon, weather was all on our side for the weekend but that's where it finished. The lakes had not opened so the prawns didn't run, and enthusiasm walking the beach was lost after the first day with all just enjoying the relaxation of the camp ground.

We did get some prawns and they were some of the biggest I had seen though they were few and far between enough for a couple of pizzas though. I found a few bream and some large salmon in the gutters but only enjoyed the session myself as all were back at camp. Rob did turn up only to see the bite end with me hauling the last of the salmon up the beach. One salmon kept for fish cakes all others were released but I had the photos for the sceptics back at camp.

Scott and Jen fished the back of the lake pretty hard only to get the tails of the plastics chewed of by the resident toads.

Sometimes it's just great to be out in the fresh air enjoying the world go by.

The trout streams and hour from Canberra are still producing plenty of flighty 30 to 40cm trout with all dry fly's being the winning ingredient.

The Murrumbidgee locally had produced a few good cod but again the big ones were a little shy. The next two months should pick up with some surface action with the warmer nights, lures up to 30cm in snake, rat, and lizard imitations should do the trick.

The local lakes are fishing well with some big red fin of 45cm plus coming from the local ponds in the late afternoons.

Well I only got out once in the month so until the next report tight lines and dirty wheels

Recipe for the Month - Salmon Fish Cakes

1 x large Australian Salmon (requires to be bled once caught and eaten in the same day)

Clean and fillet and skin - getting four good size fillets after removing blood line

Chop finely and add onion, coriander, ginger, bread crumbs, and chilli and anything else that you like

Roll into golf ball size balls Dip in egg and then Dust in panko crumbs

Shallow fry until golden Then serve with sweet chilli sauce !!

Yum (just ask Sen)



The following positions are still vacant for the 2018 ST4WD club committee:

- ♦ *President*
- ♦ *Vice President*
- ♦ *Membership Secretary*
- ♦ *Information Coordinator*
- ♦ *Publications Coordinator*

Thank you 

Please consider taking on one of these important roles and make our club even stronger and better over the coming 12 months.

Val Wiseman

It is with regret that we advise that Val Wiseman has passed away.

Val and her husband John joined the ST4WDC in 2005 and were members for a number of years. Val and John took on the role of editors of the Southern Tablelands magazine when it was still produced in hard-copy, and with vigour and enthusiasm revived the layout and content and made the magazine something to be proud of. Val and John continued in the Publication Coordinator/Editor role for three years.

Val also was very instrumental in identifying native plants at Talooge. A copy of which I still have.

She was instrumental in having the contact with K2C and the Club and started the connection for both Alan and I to Bush Heritage. She will be sadly missed. Marj

Our Sponsors



Last Note:

*I just wanted to say a **huge** thank you to those who have made our newsletter soooo awesome in the last twelve months. Thank you for your contributions, suggestions and feedback. Due to my teaching commitments I am unable to continue with the monthly newsletter production.*

I hope you have enjoyed reading and sharing in the great things this club does for its members.

Regards Glennis

Please email items for the ST4WD Club monthly newsletter to publications@st4wdc.com.au or hand it to the 2018 Publications person at the monthly meeting.

Cut off for Items for the Newsletter is now the last Friday in each month. Anything received after that date will be placed in the following months newsletter.

